



January 9, 2008

Mr. Bill Storm
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85-7th Place Suite 500
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-3198

Dear Mr. Storm,

I am writing to express my thoughts regarding the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) being submitted on the Mesaba Energy Project. I am unable to access this lengthy of a document on my computer and even the summary is so lengthy it is difficult for me to decipher. For this reason, I will not address the specific document, but will summarize some of my concerns.

First, I am appalled by the fact that a huge amount of CO₂ would be released into the air by Mesaba Energy. I have seen no realistic plans to address this issue. With the current scientific knowledge that CO₂ is, at least in part, responsible for the rapid rate of global warming, it is unconscionable to consider building a coal gasification plant in an area that does not allow sequestration of CO₂ locally.

Second, I don't feel that the Mesaba plan has addressed the impact of other pollutants and how they will affect

our air, water and ultimately, our health. We now know, for instance, that mercury is extremely harmful, even in minute amounts, but I understand that if the Mesaba plant is built, a great deal of mercury will be released into our environment.

This is simply unacceptable.

Third, I feel that the hauling of coal across many states and through populated areas is risky, expensive, and unnecessary. Coal dust in itself is an air pollutant. The infrastructure needed would place a financial burden on local residents and it appears to me that this would off set the economic benefits of jobs this plant is supposed to produce. There are surely more effective and less damaging ways of creating jobs in our area. Why not use some of the millions of dollars spent on this project to build industries that would utilize our local resources and not threaten our environment with pollution and destroy our way of life?

Thank you for considering my input.

Sincerely

Helene (Merry) Berg
326 80 Co. Rd. 336

Bovey, Minnesota 55709